

FATAL ATTRACTIONS: The Fundamentals of Fighting

LUKE 4:2B-8

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #FatalAttractions

The Fundamentals of Fighting Temptation:

1. Strengthen Spiritual **Appetites** (2, 4, 8).

2. Starve Sinful **Ambitions** (2-7).

3. Stoke Superior **Affections** (8).

Luke 4:2b-8 (ESV)

“And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.’ ⁴And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone.””

⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.””

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil? Why does the Spirit allow you to be tempted in your "wilderness?"
2. When Satan tempts Jesus, he does so in moments most-vulnerable, moments of hunger and exhaustion. What are some of the vulnerable areas of your life? How can identifying those areas help you stay on guard against Satan's temptations?
3. **Read Psalm 119:11.** Why is memorization so helpful for moments of temptation? Do you make it a practice to run to God's Word when you feel tempted? This week, find a verse to memorize that you can recite to yourself when you are experiencing temptation!
4. Ultimately, to give in to temptation is to disbelieve in the promises of God. We "buy into" what Satan is selling when we lose sight of the supreme value of God's offer. How can we regain a better vision of God's promises to better-resist temptation and starve our appetites?
5. Jesus took control of his physical desires and focused on the kingdom of God so that he could be successful in fighting temptation. What are the out-of-control desires in your life that you need to starve to regain control of your flesh?

Quote for the Week. . . by C.S. Lewis



"If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."